

Rhode Island State Law Library

User Survey 2003

We are interested in your opinions about library services and operations to help us make improvements to the library program. To assist with this endeavor, please complete the following survey by answering as many questions as possible. Completed surveys can be dropped off or mailed to the Rhode Island State Law Library ("RISLL"), Licht Judicial Complex, 250 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903. A prompt return of the survey will be appreciated. Thank you for taking the time to participate!

1. Please describe your status as a library user:

- ☐ Judge
- ☐ Attorney (solo practice)
- ☐ Attorney (law firm) (specify number of attorneys: _____)
- ☐ Attorney (public agency)
- ☐ Law clerk
- ☐ Legal assistant/paralegal
- ☐ Pro Se litigant
- ☐ Private citizen
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Other (please specify: _____)

2. How often do you use the RISLL?

- ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Seldom ☐ Never

3. If you **seldom** or **never** use the RISLL, please tell us why:

4. What percentage of your research is met by the following libraries? (% must total 100)

- _____ % RISLL
- _____ % Garrahy Judicial Complex Law Library
- _____ % Leighton Judicial Complex Law Library (Kent County)
- _____ % Murray Judicial Complex Law Library (Newport County)
- _____ % McGrath Judicial Complex Law Library (Washington County)
- _____ % Roger Williams University Law Library
- _____ % Massachusetts Social Law Library
- _____ % Providence Public Library
- _____ % Office/home library
- _____ % Internet
- _____ % Other (please specify: _____)

5. What materials does the RISLL lack that you frequently go elsewhere to use?

6. How often do you check circulating items out of the library?

- ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Seldom ☐ Never

7. Have you had problems due to needed materials being checked out and in circulation?

- ☐ Yes (a few times) ☐ Yes (many times) ☐ No

8. Which loan period would you prefer for items that do circulate?
☐ No circulation ☐ Base upon need ☐ 4 hours ☐ 24 hours ☐ 48 hours ☐ 3 days
☐ 5 days ☐ Other (please specify: _____)
9. Do you feel adequately informed about the services that the library provides?
☐ Yes ☐ No
10. What are the best methods to keep you informed about available library services as well as new developments in research technology? (rank your 5 top choices with 1 being the most preferred)
 _____ Electronic newsletter
 _____ Library website
 _____ Bar association website
 _____ E-mail
 _____ Guides/flyers
 _____ Other (please specify: _____)
11. What resources do you **usually** use when you visit the RISLL? (check all that apply)
☐ Regional reporters
☐ Federal reporters
☐ Shepard's Citations
☐ Statutes/regulations (Federal)
☐ Statutes/regulations (Other states excluding RI, MA, and CT)
☐ Digests (Federal)
☐ Digests (Regional including Decennial and General Digests)
☐ Law reviews
☐ Rhode Island collection
☐ Treatises
☐ Reference materials (non-legal)
☐ Government documents
☐ Electronic resources/computers
☐ Photocopy machines
☐ Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC)
☐ Other (please specify: _____)
12. In what format do you prefer to search for information?
☐ Print
☐ Electronic (CD-ROM)
☐ Electronic (Internet/web-based)
☐ Does not matter if staff assistance is readily available
13. With libraries facing severe space constraints including the downsizing of square footage, which solution would you recommend to manage the expansive growth associated with federal and regional reporters?
☐ Cancel all reporters **except the Rhode Island and Atlantic Reporters** and retrieve needed cases from electronic sources that include Westlaw, LexisNexis, Loislaw, and court websites
☐ Cancel all reporters **except the Rhode Island, Atlantic, North Eastern, and Federal Reporters** and retrieve needed cases from electronic sources that include Westlaw, LexisNexis, Loislaw, and court websites
☐ Cancel all reporters **except the Rhode Island and Atlantic Reporters** and retrieve cases in PDF (portable document format) from Westlaw since the cases would be exact replicas of the cases as they appear in the reporters
☐ Allocate a well defined space for reporters and discard earlier volumes (**except the Rhode Island and Atlantic Reporters**) that can be retrieved using microfiche and electronic sources; then continue print subscriptions because it is more important to have the recent cases available in print (continue discarding earlier volumes as space becomes a problem)
☐ Other (please specify: _____)

14. Which of the following reporters could be canceled without significant impact on the reporter collection since cases can be retrieved electronically? (check all that apply)

- ☐ **California Reporter**
- ☐ **New York Supplement**
- ☐ **North Eastern Reporter** (State cases from Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, New York, and Ohio)
- ☐ **North Western Reporter** (State cases from Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota)
- ☐ **Pacific Reporter** (State cases from Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming)
- ☐ **South Eastern Reporter** (State cases from Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia)
- ☐ **South Western Reporter** (State cases from Arkansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, and Texas)
- ☐ **Southern Reporter** (State cases from Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi)
- ☐ **United States Reports (GPO)**
- ☐ **United States Supreme Court Reports (Lawyers' Edition)**
- ☐ **Supreme Court Reporter (West)**
- ☐ **Federal Rules Decisions**
- ☐ **Federal Reporter**
- ☐ **Federal Supplement**
- ☐ **United States Claims Court Reporter**

15. How important are the following electronic resources to your success in performing your job or conducting legal research?

Electronic Resource	Essential	Important	Not Important
Public record databases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
News databases that cover articles in top newspapers, wire services, and magazines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Primary source databases that include cases, statutes, and regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secondary source databases that include law reviews	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secondary source databases that include treatises/loose-leaf services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Court docket databases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business databases that include SEC reports, company profiles, and company credit histories	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medical databases that include PDR.Net (the online Physicians' Desk Reference) and full-text medical articles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

16. Training in which of the following services would best meet your needs? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Westlaw
- ☐ Lexis (Primary and secondary law sources)
- ☐ Nexis (News, legal, business, and medical information)
- ☐ Loislaw
- ☐ West's Premise CD-ROM products
- ☐ West's KeyCite Citations
- ☐ Shepard's Electronic Citations
- ☐ Other (please specify: _____)

17. What is your level of computer expertise?

☐ Beginner ☐ Some experience ☐ Working knowledge ☐ Advanced ☐ Expert

18. Please indicate the area(s) that you practice in or regularly conduct research by placing a check in the appropriate box(es). Then indicate whether the library's collection in that area is adequate, inadequate, or you do not know.

Topic	Practice/ Research Area	Adequate Holdings	Inadequate Holdings	Do not know
Administrative Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Admiralty and Maritime Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Antitrust, Trade Regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arbitration and ADR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aviation Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Banking and Finance Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bankruptcy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communications and Media Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consumer Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Constitutional Law, Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Construction Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contracts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copyright Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corporations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criminal Law and Procedure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elder Law, Social Security	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entertainment Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federal Practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Franchising	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Government Agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health and Healthcare Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Immigration/Naturalization Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Insurance Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indian/Tribal Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet/E-Commerce Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Juvenile Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Labor and Employment Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landlord/Tenant Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Law Office Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Litigation and Appeals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medical Malpractice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Military Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Municipal Corporations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patent Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pensions, Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal injury, Torts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Products Liability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Real Estate Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Securities Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sports Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Taxation Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trademark Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trusts, Estates, and Wills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unfair Competition, Trade Secrets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Law (Riparian)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Workers Compensation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zoning/Land Use Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please list below:)				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

19. Please list any materials that you would like to see added to the RISLL collection in any of your areas of practice/research. (specify the title, author, and publisher if available)

20. Indicate whether you have had any difficulty using the RISLL because of the following conditions. (check all that apply)

A. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

- ☐ library too crowded
- ☐ library too noisy (other users)
- ☐ library too noisy (staff)
- ☐ library too noisy (equipment)
- ☐ poor lighting
- ☐ uncomfortable seating
- ☐ not enough study space
- ☐ temperature too hot
- ☐ temperature too cold
- ☐ poor housekeeping (library too dirty, books scattered and unshelved)
- ☐ other (specify) _____

B. LIBRARY CONDITIONS

- ☐ needed materials not in collection
- ☐ confusing stack arrangement
- ☐ poor signage
- ☐ materials missing from shelf/volume
- ☐ needed material was not updated
- ☐ difficulty in locating material in the online public access catalog (OPAC)
- ☐ computer was unavailable to use
- ☐ computer was too slow
- ☐ library staff not readily available
- ☐ library staff not helpful
- ☐ crowded stacks
- ☐ photocopier malfunctions
- ☐ other (specify) _____

21. If you have any further comments or suggestions that you wish to make, use the space below. Also, if you use any of the libraries under the jurisdiction of the RISLL, including the Garrahy, Leighton, Murray, and McGrath Judicial Complexes, we welcome your input. Please specify which library you are commenting about.
